

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A piston pin, comprising:

a tubular body having a coated cylindrical exterior margin, the exterior margin being shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of a connecting rod, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of [the] a material that is common with a material forming the connecting rod, [the] a mating of the coated cylindrical exterior margin of the tubular body with the inside margin of the pin bore being in a shiftable surface to surface engagement.

2. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim 1, the coating on the cylindrical exterior margin being ~~having~~ a chromium-nitride coating ~~disposed on the tubular body~~, the coating comprising the piston pin cylindrical exterior margin.

3. (Original) The piston pin of claim 2, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.

4. (Original) The piston pin of claim 2, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

5. (Original) The piston pin of claim 4, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

6. (Original) The piston pin of claim 2, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.

7. (Original) The piston pin of claim 6, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.

8. (Currently amended) A piston pin, connecting rod combination comprising:

the piston pin having a tubular body, the tubular body having a coated cylindrical exterior margin, the exterior margin being shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of the connecting rod; and

the connecting rod being formed of a certain material, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of the certain material forming the connecting rod, ~~[[the]]~~ a mating of the pin bore with the piston pin being a shiftable surface to surface engagement.

9. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 8, the piston pin coating being ~~having~~ a chromium-nitride coating disposed on the tubular body, the coating comprising the pin cylindrical exterior margin.

10. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 9, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.

11. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 9, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

12. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 11, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

13. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[2]] 9, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.

14. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 13, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.

15. (Currently amended) A method of forming a piston pin, comprising:

forming a tubular body having a cylindrical exterior margin,~~the exterior margin~~

~~shiftably mating the exterior margin with an inside margin of a pin bore of a connecting rod;~~

~~forming the connecting rod of a certain material;~~

coating the cylindrical exterior margin with a selected material;

forming the surface margin of a connecting rod [[the]] pin bore of [[the]] a certain material, the certain being common with a material employed in forming the connecting rod;

and mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin bore in a shiftable surface to surface engagement.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 including disposing a chromium-nitride coating on the cylindrical exterior margin of the tubular body, the chromium-nitride coating comprising the selected material ~~the coating comprising the pin cylindrical exterior margin prior to mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin.~~

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating by physical vapor deposition.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, including buffing the chromium-nitride coating after deposition prior to mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, including buffing the chromium-nitride coating in a centerless buffing operation